

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



You will find a reminder below about the AGM which will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June, followed by strawberries and cream and a glass of bubbly. Please join us at the Camden Centre or send us your proxy so that we form a quorum.

Members of the committee are elected for three years and, under our Constitution, they can then stand for re-election for a further three years after which they must step down for at least one year. I am delighted to report that David Brimlow (Treasurer) and Joan Young (Outings Coordinator) have agreed to stand for a further term and that Sandra McDonald (Short Breaks) has been nominated as Vice-Chair. It's good news too that Philippa Bernstein, who joined the Committee after the last AGM, has been nominated as Events Coordinator. There is still just time for nominations to be accepted, but please note that, as advertised last month, the closing date is 12<sup>th</sup> May.

We have two exciting one-off events to look forward to. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council will be celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and TWu3a will join the march and have a display in Dunorlan Park. Then on 28<sup>th</sup> June, Clive Bell will be speaking to us about his experiences as a bomber pilot during the Second World War. He must be one of the very few remaining survivors and this will be a unique opportunity to hear such a personal account.

You will find full details of all these events below and we hope to see you there and at many others.

[Eryll](mailto:eryll@tunbridge-wells.gov.uk) (01892 513805)

### Coming up this month

14<sup>th</sup> May **Line dancing at Rusthall**

19<sup>th</sup> May **Monthly meeting 'Come fly with me'**

27<sup>th</sup> May **Coffee morning at Trinity**



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## Reminder—NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at the Camden Centre  
on Thursday 16 June 2022 at 2.30pm.

Anyone unable to attend who would like to appoint a proxy should obtain a Proxy Notice from the [Hon. Secretary](#). Proxy Notices must be returned to her at least 7 days before the AGM.

Nominations are sought for the positions of:

**Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Outings Coordinator and Events Coordinator.**

Nomination forms can be downloaded [here](#) or obtained from the Secretary.

All nominations should be proposed and seconded and sent, together with motions for discussion, to the Hon. Secretary, Fiona Findlay, by [email](#) or by post to 12 Faraday Lodge, Badger's Holt, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 3DX no later than 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

All AGM documentation will be downloadable from our website no later than 26<sup>th</sup> May, 21 days prior to the meeting.

**The AGM will be followed by strawberries & cream and a glass of bubbly**

**Please come or submit a proxy vote in order to form the necessary quorum.**



TUNBRIDGE WELLS CELEBRATES  
HER MAJESTY'S PLATINUM JUBILEE  
ON FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE



**Volunteers needed for our celebrations!**

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is one of only 8 Royal Boroughs in the UK, so they plan to make the celebrations of the Queen's historic 70 year reign a really memorable day.

There will be a march through the town starting at the war memorial and continuing along Monson Road, Calverley Road and Bayhall Road before ending up at Dunorlan Park Events Field. Jean and Keith Root will be organising a small contingent of u3a marchers – see below if you would like to take part.

At the park a stage will be set up for local bands and children's entertainers to perform based on events during Her Majesty's reign, and everyone is invited to join in with a huge picnic lunch. Local concessions will be selling drinks, crafts and produce and there will be displays promoting local charities – including TWu3a.

We hope you will be there to join the fun. Why not bring a picnic and visit our gazebo? It is going to be a great way to celebrate Her Majesty's long reign, a fun day out, and a good way to raise awareness about TWu3a.

**\*We need volunteers to man our display.** If you could spare an hour or two to hand out leaflets and talk to the public about TWu3a, **please let [Eryll](#) know as soon as possible.**

**\*And if you would like to join the procession,** meet by 12.30pm **at the latest** at the **London Road end of York Road.** We shall then watch the Military Parade at the War Memorial and join the procession as a group when it sets off at 1.30pm to cover the mile walk to Dunorlan. Wear red, white and blue and we'll provide the u3a identity. Please ring Jean and Keith on 01892 525470 by May 19<sup>th</sup> or email [jeanfroot@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeanfroot@yahoo.co.uk) by May 30<sup>th</sup> if you want to join us, as we'll need to know approximate numbers.

[Eryll Fabian](#) (01892 513805)

**Monthly Meeting at the Camden Centre on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30**

**Neil Sadler: Come fly with me**

**“An odd thing happened today at the airport”**



**International airports are fascinating places to pass through. But have you ever wondered what happens if you work at one...especially as a police officer at Britain’s second busiest airport, London Gatwick (LGW)?**

**Neil will also have his new book for sale**

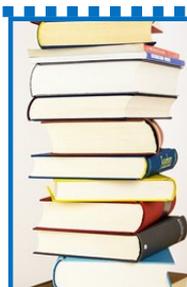
This will be a hybrid meeting, so if you would prefer to attend on Zoom and are not already members of the Zoom Talks Group please contact [Eryll](#) who will send you a Zoom invitation.



## **The Book and Jigsaw Puzzle exchange**

If you would like to swap a book or puzzle please bring it along to the monthly meeting and take a different one home!

Please only bring items to swap as we don't have space for a second hand stall



## **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **OVER BERLIN AT NIGHT IN A MOSQUITO BOMBER**



Flight Lieutenant Colin Bell DFC will relate his personal experiences as a young Bomber Command pilot under attack during World War II

He will describe how morale was maintained during the fighting of a defensive war to protect the home front involving heavy aircrew losses

Colin Bell, who has won as many plaudits for his talk as for his wartime record, was unable to speak to us in 2020 due to the pandemic. We are therefore delighted to announce that he will be giving us his inspirational talk on

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

in the Main Hall of the Camden Centre. Doors will open at 2.15 and the talk will start at 2.30.

We are asking for a minimum **£5 donation** (payable on the door) as Colin is raising funds for Hospice in the Weald. Members are welcome to bring a non-member.

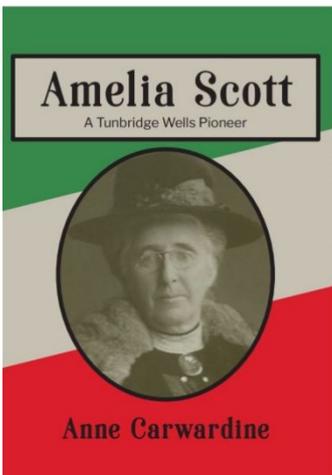
## Who was Amelia Scott?

With the opening of the Amelia Scott building on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, it is timely to find out more about her life. She was an amazing woman, instrumental in setting up the first Public Library in Tunbridge Wells, so it is especially gratifying that our wonderful new facility is recognition of her vision for the town.



**The Life and Times of Amelia Scott by Anne Carwardine**, will tell you all you need to know. Anne is a local historian and author who has meticulously researched her subject. She has kindly donated her time to produce this short book to raise funds for The Friends of the Amelia Scott. The book costs **£5** and all proceeds will go towards the Friends next project which is the conservation of a Georgian suit which will accompany the beautiful Georgian

Gown—the centre piece of The Georgian Room in the new Amelia Scott. Copies of the book will be available to buy at the next monthly meeting. Alternatively, if you cannot make the meeting you can pay for the book online. Make an online transfer to The Friends at the Amelia Scott, sort code 23-05-80, account number 31317002. Metro Bank accounts aren't recognised by all banks, so you may get a warning message saying that the Account is not recognised. Providing that the bank details are correct, you can make the payment. Please make the reference **Book plus your surname** (or as many letters are allowed), so we can identify who has paid. Please email [Sue Brimlow](mailto:Sue.Brimlow), so that we know who has ordered a book and to arrange collection.



### ???????????????? JENNY'S TEST OF TEN ??????????????????

#### Beastly Names

Each clue leads to the name of a creature.

1. Area of Cardiff where Shirley Bassey was born.
2. Harper Lee novel featuring a lawyer called Atticus Finch.
3. The star of the film Good Morning Vietnam.
4. Formerly married to Heidi Klum- the singer of Kiss from a Rose.
5. 1975 crime film starring Al Pacino.
6. John Steinbeck novella.
7. A coastal reserve near the village of Sheldon, Devon.
8. The name of Jamie Oliver's eldest son.
9. Where Ernest Shackleton and his crew sought refuge in 1916 following the loss of their ship Endurance in the Wendell Sea.
10. Group whose song 'I Bet You Look Good on the Dance Floor' was a hit in 2005.

**Answers on page 8**

**We would like to thank Jenny and Colin very much for their commitment to the quizzing cause and their hard work in producing a quiz for the newsletter every month during lockdown and beyond.**

**The quiz and the crossword have kept our brains ticking over and hopefully now more groups are starting up, we can continue that brain training face to face.**

## Outings Coordinator

The April outing to Hatchlands was fascinating with so much to see: each room was filled with treasures. Janie Ramsay has written a review of this trip—see below.

In May we will be going to Leonardslee lakes and garden in the morning and Nymans in the afternoon. This outing is full with a waiting list. In June we will spend the day at Walmer Castle and Turner Contemporary in Margate, another lovely trip. At the time of writing there were a few places available. The application form is in April's newsletter or contact Lorna Jones at [lorna\\_jones@onetel.com](mailto:lorna_jones@onetel.com).

Our July outing is to Lullingstone Castle and Aylesford Priory. A chance to see another beautiful garden in the form of the world garden at Lullingstone plus the lavender fields and then on to Aylesford Priory. The application form is at the end of this newsletter.

Can I remind members to be at the designated coach pick up places at least 5/10 minutes before the departure time so that we can leave promptly at the time quoted.

If you enjoy our monthly outings perhaps you would like to join the small outings committee that arranges these trips. I am looking for one or two more to join us for next year's monthly trips. If you feel this is something that you would like to do please contact me on 07504919081. *[Joan Young](#)*

### HATCHLANDS PARK

What a wonderful day we all had at Hatchlands. Despite being an NT member, this had not been on my radar, but visiting the house was like stepping into an Alice-in-Wonderland world of incredible furniture, paintings and sculptures. The building itself is unremarkable, but the interior



has a wealth of original Robert Adams' painted and gilded ceilings, architraves, chandeliers and carved marble fireplaces. However, the main event is the large collection of pianos and harpsichords previously owned by musicians and famous personages: King Charles II's virginal, Napoleon's piano, Marie Antoinette's harpsichord to name a few. There were pianos owned and played by Beethoven, Mozart, Liszt, Bach, Mahler, Schubert, Chopin, Elgar, Bizet, and Haydn. Some, like George IV's grand piano are on loan (from the Queen) but the

vast majority form the world-renowned Cobbe collection. All are kept in perfect condition and many are lovely antiques in their own right. There was even a beautiful Regency half-moon Sheraton tea table with a hidden piano inside.



The Cobbe family have brought these amazing instruments, paintings and other pieces from their home in Ireland. It is marvellous how so many keyed instruments have been brought together by one man. A very competent painter himself, Cobbe's collection of paintings include the only portrait of Shakespeare commissioned in his lifetime, and numerous portraits of famous musicians, composers, plus

some of our Monarchs – and their mistresses – as well as family portraits.



The weather kindly behaved itself and all in all, it was a lovely day to remember.

*Janie Ramsay*

### Editor's Error

The lively report in April's newsletter about the outing to Disraeli's house was wrongly attributed to Sheila Casey. It should have read SHEILA AUSTIN. I apologise unreservedly to both Sheilas.

# Groups Coordinator's Update

Our thanks to all the group contacts and new members who came along to the New Members' meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April. We are now in the process of planning an "informal" Group Contacts meeting and the list is growing for new group ideas too.

If you have either 1) ideas for a new TWu3a group, or 2) you think your group has too many members and it is time to begin a second, then there are [guidelines](#) on the TWu3a website groups page and then your first port of call is to contact the [Groups Co-ordinator](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **New group suggestions from members...**

A **Book Group** that meets every 2 months to discuss Booker Prize winning books (past and present)

A **7<sup>th</sup> London Explorers** group...a set up meeting is being planned for sometime in May.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Family History (Beginners)** and **MOTO2** recently had their first meetings (MOTO2 are also keeping in touch with each other via WhatsApp). **Posh Nosh Diners Too** are hoping to have a start-up meeting in May.

The **Recorder Consort**, **Watercolours Painting**, **Tennis Bat & Chat** and the **Croquet** groups would welcome new members, whilst the **Country Dancing** and **Cribbage** groups will be unable to get going again after a long pause unless new people join them.

If you are interested in any groups the details of group contacts can be found on the [TWu3a website](#), from the Groups Listing or from the [Groups Co-ordinator](#). (We do strive to keep Groups details up to date!)

[\*\*Lindsay Hasell\*\*](#)

**London Explorers 2** went to Seaford to explore the abandoned village of Tide Mills, where there had been a thriving village housing workers for the tide operated mill for 100 years. The flour was originally sent by sea to London or by the River Ouse to Lewes, but when the railway came to Newhaven in 1864 it became uneconomic and gradually fell into decline. The village was abandoned in 1940 and used for training troops in WW2, leaving just a few broken stone walls. The visit was heightened by the very blustery conditions and the big waves crashing over the breakwater.



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*Mary Blinks*

## **The Out and About Weekenders**



enjoyed their visit to Biggin Hill Memorial Museum. Dave was an excellent guide and bought it all to life. The actor in period dress was very

entertaining and the small cafe was a delight with references to the 1940s.

*Sandra McDonald*



## Group News

### Another group back in action..

After an absence of some months, the **Pub Quiz Group** eventually returned to real pub quizzing. In March, a team attended the Brecknock Arms at Bells Yew Green and scored 84, which turned out to be enough to secure a win and netted £20 prize money. Hooray!

Less than a week later, two teams of six entered the quiz with a difference at The Tiger Tavern at St. John's.

Rounds included: **Scandal** - Who remembers the MP involved in the Duck House expenses scandal? **Atop and The Pops**, which included putting five celebrities into height order, tallest first. Maria Sharapova, Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, Kate Middleton, Kate Moss. I will only tell you that Maria Sharapova is exceedingly tall, while Lady Gaga is much shorter. **Silver screen Booze** – mainly to do with on-screen cocktails. Challenging! **Babies v Apples** - Are these Babies names or Varieties of Apples. Blue Ivy, Sugarbee, D'arcy Spice, Wolf River, Peach Blossom Rainbow!?

At the end 'The Optimists' were surprised to find themselves joint leaders on 45. Then, after two nail-biting tie-breaks. The Optimists prevailed and added a further £94 to the pot. Hooray again!

As a result of this success £114 has been donated to the Ukraine Charity appeal. To date TW u3a Pub Group teams have raised £4893 for charity. Onwards and upwards to the magic £5,000.

*Dick Hoare*

Duck House Scandal - Sir Peter Viggers, Remember him?

Babies—Blue Ivy, Peach Blossom Rainbow. Apples—Sugarbee, D'Arcy Spice, Wolf River

The **Classical Music Appreciation Group** had their first meeting this month. In the first half they watched and listened to a video recording of the Welte Organ in the Science Theatre at David Salomon's House followed by a CD performance of Can Atilla's Symphony No 2 in C Minor "Gallipoli - the 57th Regiment". After an interval for coffee and biscuits, they were treated to a CD performance of Sergei Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini in a version for organ and orchestra by Cameron Carpenter which blew them away! Everyone enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the next meeting.



*David Elliott*

**Out & About 2** visited Pashley Manor on a lovely sunny day and enjoyed seeing the daffodils and beautiful sculptures.

*Liz Adams*



Following the **Photo Club's** visit to Sissinghurst, for which we all complained about the bright sunny day with a blue sky, we visited Hastings and suffered a bright sunny day with a blue sky and a freezing wind. But the photos, fish and chips, and comradery made up for it. As usual, Hastings was full of interesting opportunities from the pier to the old town and the fishing village.

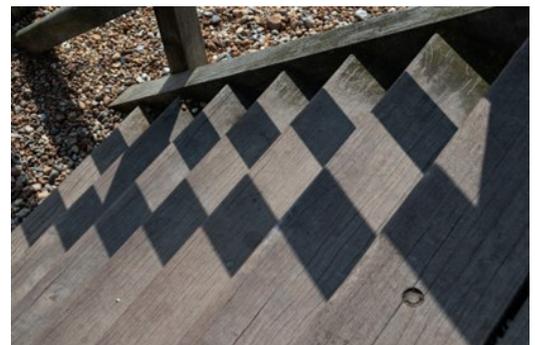
Apart from the usual photos and challenges, we all had a go at high-key photography. Not something we usually do and, for those of us new to it, very

A high-key photo



interesting to learn. We are currently planning our next trip on 20<sup>th</sup> May and looking forward to it.

*Ian Graham*



## Last Month's Talk

### Bridget Wood: Medical Detection Dogs

We were treated to a fascinating talk by Bridget Wood on behalf of the Medical Detection Dogs charity in which she described how dogs have been trained to save people's lives by using their sense of smell. The charity trains dogs for use in one of two different roles. Bio Detection Dogs are used to detect smells associated with a variety of different cancers, Parkinson's Disease, Covid-19 and bacterial infections.

The other field of use of the dogs is as Medical Alert Assistance Dogs for people suffering with complex health conditions such as severe allergies, diabetic hypo-glycaemic states and Addison's Disease.

It can take between 6 and 18 months to train a dog before it can undertake these vital roles.

MDD rely on the generosity of supporters, charitable trusts and foundations and members of the public to fund their life-saving work.

<https://www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk>



*Bob Slater*

## TEA WITH CAFÉ SOCIETY

Saturday 23rd April saw guests enjoying afternoon tea and entertainment by the wonderful Café Society with their fabulous singer Lelia di Domenico. As well as playing and singing jazz classics, the band brought along 4 talented dancers who showed us all how Lindyhop was done!

Afternoon tea was provided by John Anthony Catering – and wasn't that Victoria Sandwich just amazing?

A big thank you to everyone who came along to this event – all 80 of you – it made for such a great atmosphere in the room and we couldn't have done it without your support.

*Isobel Martin*



### Jenny's Test of Ten ...Answers

1. Tiger Bay
2. To Kill a Mocking Bird
3. Robin Williams
4. Seal
5. Dog Day Afternoon
6. Of Mice and Men
7. Labrador Bay
8. Buddy Bear
9. Elephant Island
10. Arctic Monkeys

## Important information

### Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

14 May 2022	Line Dancing at Rusthall
3 June 2022	Queen's Jubilee Celebrations
16 June 2022	AGM
28 June 2022	Colin Bell: Over Berlin in a Mosquito Bomber
24 Sept 2022	Barn Dance (details later)

### New members

A big welcome to our **17** new members this month.

**Faye Burr, Sue Burt, Catherine Coulthard, Elizabeth Davison, Susan Green, Yvonne Hancock, Judith Harwood, Dianne Hill, David Jukes, Kevin Newnham, Evelyn Piechoczek, Alan Richards, Maureen Richards, Susan Turner, Thelma Walker, Rupert Ward and Stephanie Wright.**

### Your Committee

Chairman	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Vice-Chair	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Secretary	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
Group Coordinator	Lindsay Hasell	01892 673180
Membership Secretary	Judy Horwood	01892 537601
Outings Coordinator	Joan Young	01892 546687
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196
Events Coordinator	Philippa Bernstein	01892 523132
Newsletter	Bridget Sands	01892 546161

### **A Message from the Editor**

Any publication is only as good as its contributors and I do hope you will continue to support the Newsletter as it is such an easy and effective way to communicate with you all. If you have a great idea for an article or there is anything interesting you would like to see in the newsletter in the future please let me know.

If anyone objects to their photo being reproduced in this Newsletter, please contact me as soon as possible.

All contributions to the **June** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by May 30<sup>th</sup> at the latest (**earlier submissions are always welcome!**) or phone 01892 546161.

### National Office



Keep up to date with National Office news on the website:

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or write to:

The Third Age Trust, Room 104, Lenta Business Centre,  
156 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1 8EN

# Application for a Kent Outing to the World Gardens at Lullingstone Castle, and Lavender/Castle Farm, and The Friars/Aylesford Priory Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

The cost of this outing is £28, which includes all entrance charges, coach and driver gratuity. It does **not** include any refreshments. We arrive at Lullingstone Country Park around 10.15am to have a coffee stop before taking a short riverside walk to visit The World Gardens at Lullingstone Castle. After Lunch we will visit Castle Farm to see wonderful fields of Lavender and their barn and & shop. We will then board the coach and travel to Aylesford Priory for a free flow visit after a short introduction to the history and work there. Light lunches are available at the Country Park Café or at Lullingstone Castle. Alternatively, you may prefer to bring a packed lunch. We should arrive back in Tunbridge Wells by 5.30pm.

**OUTING CODE: F10 ORGANISER: Pat Micklewright [imicklewright@hotmail.com](mailto:imicklewright@hotmail.com)**

**To pay by BACS**, please email [imicklewright@hotmail.com](mailto:imicklewright@hotmail.com) and include your name, mobile/home phone number, date of payment of £28 per person, Name of Outing and Code F10. Also state where you will board the coach.

**Then to pay:** Make an online transfer to: **Tunbridge Wells u3a**  
**Sort code: 40-52-40**  
**Account No: 00024097** [Your bank may not recognise our CAF account, but as long as you've entered the details correctly, you can go ahead with the transaction].  
**Reference:** OUTING CODE Surname e.g. **F10 Your Surname**

**To pay by cheque:** post the application below to Pat Micklewright, 4 The Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3FT. **Add your email or telephone number for confirmation of receipt.**

### APPLICATION FORM

**Outing Name and Code: World Gardens, Lavender Farm and The Friars. Code F10**

**I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Tunbridge Wells u3a**

**Name, home and mobile phone numbers**

.....

**If you are paying for your partner or a u3a friend, please include their details below**

**Name, home and mobile phone numbers**

.....

**Please tick to say where you want to pick up the coach**

Crescent Road ( ) St Johns Sainsbury's Local ( )  
Southborough Fountain ( )

**Pick up times for the coach**

**From Crescent Road (opposite the Assembly Halls) 9.15 am, then at the bus stop on the A26 opposite Sainsbury's Local and finally at Southborough Fountain about 9.30 am.**

**Please note once monies have been paid out in advance, full refunds will only be given if your place can be filled by another member. Also, members are advised that neither the TWU3A nor the outing organiser will accept responsibility for any mishap of whatever nature during this outing. Members are advised to consider personal insurance cover.**